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12 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
13 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

14 UNITED FABRICS INTERNATIONAL
15 INC., a California Corporation,

16 Plaintiff,

17 v.

18 ASCENA RETAIL GROUP, INC.,
19 individually and doing business as
20 Dressbarn, a New Jersey Corporation;
21 DOES 1-10,

22 Defendants.

Case No.:

PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT FOR:

1. COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT;
2. VICARIOUS AND/OR
CONTRIBUTORY COPYRIGHT
INFRINGEMENT

Jury Trial Demanded

23 Plaintiff, UNITED INTERNATIONAL FABRICS, INC., by and through its
24 undersigned attorneys, hereby prays to this honorable Court for relief based on the
25 following:
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27

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1
2 1. This action arises under the Copyright Act of 1976, Title 17 U.S.C., §
3 101 *et seq.*

4 2. This Court has federal question jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and
5 1338 (a) and (b).

6 3. Venue in this judicial district is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c) and
7 1400(a) in that this is the judicial district in which a substantial part of the acts and
8 omissions giving rise to the claims occurred.

9 **PARTIES**

10 4. Plaintiff UNITED INTERNATIONAL FABRICS, INC. (“UFI” or
11 Plaintiff) is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of
12 California with its principal place of business located in the Los Angeles County.

13 5. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant
14 ASCENA RETAIL GROUP, INC. individually and doing business as Dressbarn
15 (“ASCENA”) is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of
16 New Jersey, and doing business in and with California and its residents.

17 6. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant
18 DOES 1-5, inclusive, is a manufacturer, and/or a vendor (and/or agent or employee to
19 a manufacturer or vendor) of product to Defendant, which DOE Defendants have
20 manufactured and/or supplied and are manufacturing and/or supplying materials and
21 other product manufactured with Plaintiff’s copyrighted designs (as hereinafter
22 defined) without Plaintiff’s knowledge or consent or have contributed to said
23 infringement. The true names, whether corporate, individual or otherwise of
24 Defendants DOES 1-10, inclusive, are presently unknown to Plaintiff, which
25 therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names and will seek leave to amend
26 this complaint to show their true names and capacities when same have been
27 ascertained.

1 7. Defendants DOES 6 through 10, inclusive, are other parties not yet
2 identified who have infringed Plaintiff's copyrights, have contributed to the
3 infringement of Plaintiff's copyrights, or have engaged in one or more of the
4 wrongful practices alleged herein. The true names, whether corporate, individual or
5 otherwise, of Defendants 1 through 10, inclusive, are presently unknown to Plaintiff,
6 which therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names, and will seek leave to
7 amend this Complaint to show their true names and capacities when same have been
8 ascertained.

9 8. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that at all times
10 relevant hereto each of the Defendants was the agent, affiliate, officer, director,
11 manager, principal, alter-ego, and/or employee of the remaining Defendants and was
12 at all times acting within the scope of such agency, affiliation, alter-ego relationship
13 and/or employment; and actively participated in or subsequently ratified and adopted,
14 or both, each and all of the acts or conduct alleged, with full knowledge of all the
15 facts and circumstances, including, but not limited to, full knowledge of each and
16 every violation of Plaintiff's rights and the damages to Plaintiff proximately caused
17 thereby.

18 **CLAIMS RELATED TO DESIGN 8187-SANTANA**

19 9. Prior to the conduct complained of herein, Plaintiff composed an
20 original two-dimensional artwork for purposes of textile printing, which is set forth
21 hereinbelow. It allocated this artwork Plaintiff's internal design number 8187-
22 SANTANA (hereinafter "Subject Design"). This artwork was a creation of Plaintiff
23 and/or Plaintiff's design team, and is, and at all relevant times was, owned
24 exclusively by Plaintiff.

25 10. Plaintiff applied for and received a United States Copyright Registration
26 for Subject Design.

1 11. Prior to the acts complained of herein, Plaintiff sampled and sold fabric
2 bearing Subject Design to numerous parties in the fashion and apparel industries.

3 12. A true and correct image of the Subject Design is provided below:

4 SUBJECT DESIGN



22 13. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that, following this
23 distribution of fabric bearing Subject Design ASCENA and certain DOE defendants
24 created, sold, manufactured, caused to be manufactured, imported and/or distributed
25 fabric and/or garments comprised of fabric bearing an unauthorized reproduction of
26 the Subject Design (“Infringing Product”). Such Infringing Product includes but is
27 not limited to garments sold by ASCENA to the public. True and correct images of
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1 one such Infringing Product are provided below. A comparison of the Subject Design
2 and the sample exemplars of Infringing Product makes it apparent that the elements,
3 composition, arrangement, layout, and appearance of the designs are substantially
4 similar.

5 Examples of Infringing Product:



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22
23
24 14. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants,
25 and each of them, have committed copyright infringement with actual or constructive
26 knowledge of Plaintiff's rights and/or in blatant disregard for Plaintiff's rights, such
27 that said acts of copyright infringement were, and continue to be, willful, intentional
28

1 and malicious, subjecting Defendants, and each of them, to liability for statutory
2 damages under Section 504(c)(2) of the Copyright Act in the sum of up to one
3 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) per infringement.

4 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

5 (For Copyright Infringement - Against All Defendants)

6 15. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference as
7 though fully set forth the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this
8 Complaint.

9 16. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants,
10 and each of them, had access to the Subject Design, including, without limitation,
11 through (a) access to Plaintiff's showroom and/or design library; (b) access to
12 illegally distributed copies of the Subject Design by third-party vendors, including
13 without limitation international and/or overseas converters and printing mills; (c)
14 access to Plaintiff's strike-offs and samples, and (d) access to garments manufactured
15 with fabric lawfully printed through Plaintiff.

16 17. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that one or more of
17 the Defendants manufactures garments and/or is a garment vendor. Plaintiff is
18 further informed and believes and thereon alleges that said Defendant(s) has an
19 ongoing business relationship with Defendant retailer, and each of them, and supplied
20 garments to said retailer, which garments infringed the Subject Design in that said
21 garments were composed of fabric which featured an unauthorized print design that
22 was identical or substantially similar to the Subject Design.

23 18. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants,
24 and each of them, infringed Plaintiff's copyright by creating, making and/or
25 developing directly infringing and/or derivative works from the Subject Design and
26 by producing, distributing and/or selling garments which infringe the Subject Design
27 through a nationwide network of retail stores and on-line outlets.

1 19. Due to Defendants' acts of infringement, Plaintiff has suffered
2 substantial damages to its business in an amount to be established at trial.

3 20. Due to Defendants' acts of infringement, Plaintiff has suffered general
4 and special damages in an amount to be established at trial.

5 21. Due to Defendants' acts of copyright infringement as alleged herein,
6 Defendants, and each of them, have obtained direct and indirect profits they would
7 not otherwise have realized but for their infringement of the Subject Design. As such,
8 Plaintiff is entitled to disgorgement of Defendants' profits directly and indirectly
9 attributable to Defendants' infringement of the Subject Design in an amount to be
10 established at trial.

11 22. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that the
12 infringement of the Subject Designs by Defendants, and each of them, was willful,
13 reckless, and/or in blatant disregard for Plaintiff's rights as a copyright holder, and as
14 such, Defendants, and each, are liable for willful, exemplary and enhanced statutory
15 damages of up to and including one hundred and fifty thousand dollars and/or a
16 preclusion from deducting certain costs relevant to disgorgeable profits.

17 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

18 (For Vicarious and/or Contributory Copyright Infringement - Against All
19 Defendants)

20 23. Plaintiff repeats, realleges and incorporates herein by reference as
21 though fully set forth the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this
22 Complaint.

23 24. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants
24 knowingly induced, participated in, aided and abetted in and profited from the illegal
25 reproduction and/or subsequent sales of product featuring the Subject Design as
26 alleged hereinabove.

25. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant, and each of them, are vicariously liable for the infringement alleged herein because they had the right and ability to supervise the infringing conduct and because they had a direct financial interest in the infringing conduct.

26. By reason of the Defendants', and each of their, acts of contributory and vicarious infringement as alleged above, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer substantial damages to its business in an amount to be established at trial, as well as additional general and special damages in an amount to be established at trial.

27. Due to Defendants' acts of copyright infringement as alleged herein, Defendants, and each of them, have obtained direct and indirect profits they would not otherwise have realized but for their infringement of the Subject Design. As such, Plaintiff is entitled to disgorgement of Defendants' profits directly and indirectly attributable to Defendants' infringement of the Subject Design, in an amount to be established at trial.

28. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that the infringement of the Subject Designs by Defendants, and each of them, was willful, reckless, and/or in blatant disregard for Plaintiff's rights as a copyright holder, and as such, Defendants, and each, are liable for willful, exemplary and enhanced statutory damages of up to and including one hundred and fifty thousand dollars and/or a preclusion from deducting certain costs relevant to disgorgeable profits.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Plaintiff prays for judgment as follows:

Against All Defendants

With Respect to Each Claim for Relief

- a. That Defendants, their agents and employees be enjoined from infringing Plaintiff's copyrights in any manner, specifically those for the Subject Design;

- 1 b. That Plaintiff be awarded all profits of Defendants plus all losses of
2 Plaintiff, plus any other monetary advantage gained by the Defendants
3 through their infringement, the exact sum to be proven at the time of
4 trial, or, if elected before final judgment, statutory damages as available
5 under the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.;
- 6 c. That Plaintiff be awarded its attorneys' fees as available under the
7 Copyright Act U.S.C. § 101 et seq.;
- 8 d. That Plaintiff be awarded pre-judgment interest as allowed by law;
- 9 e. That Plaintiff be awarded the costs of this action; and
- 10 f. That Plaintiff be awarded such further legal and equitable relief as the
11 Court deems proper.

12 A TRIAL BY JURY PURSUANT TO FED. R. CIV. P. 38 AND
13 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT SEVEN IS HEREBY DEMANDED.

14
15 Dated: April 11, 2017

By: /s/ Scott A. Burroughs
Scott A. Burroughs, Esq.
Trevor W. Barrett, Esq.
DONIGER / BURROUGHS
Attorneys for Plaintiff
UNITED FABRICS
INTERNATIONAL, INC.